

2013-14

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

PRE-TOURNAMENT NEWS & NOTES



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NEC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL FACTS & FIGURES

2014 Northeast Conference Tournament

(all games played at home of higher seed)

Quarterfinals

Sunday, March 9

#8 LIU BROOKLYN at #1 ROBERT MORRIS, 2:00 pm #7 WAGNER at #2 MOUNT ST. MARY'S, 2:00 pm #6 SACRED HEART at #3 SAINT FRANCIS U, 3:00 pm #5 ST. FRANCIS BROOKLYN at #4 BRYANT, 6:00 pm

Semifinals

Wednesday, March 12 TBD on ESPN3

Championship

Sunday, March 16 3:00 pm on ESPNU



Watch NEC Front Row LIVE!

Pregame Show 2 pm on WBB Championship Sunday



NEC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

END OF REGULAR SEASON									
	School NEC	Pct.	Overall	Pct.	Streak	Home	Away	Neu	
1.	Robert Morris *\$14-4	0.778	18-11	0.621	W1	13-4	5-7	0-0	
2.	Mount St. Mary's *13-5	0.722	18-12	0.600	L1	10-3	7-8	1-1	
3.	Saint Francis U *11-7	0.611	13-16	0.448	W2	7-5	6-10	0-1	
	Bryant *11-7	0.611	16-13	0.552	W3	8-5	8-8	0-0	
5.	St. Francis Brooklyn *10-8	0.556	19-10	0.655	W1	12-2	6-8	1-0	
6.	Sacred Heart *9-9	0.500	12-17	0.414	L1	9-5	3-11	0-1	
7.	Wagner *8-10	0.444	9-20	0.310	L2	5-8	4-11	0-1	
8.	LIU Brooklyn *7-11	0.389	9-20	0.310	L2	4-10	5-10	0-0	
9.	Central Connecticut5-13	0.278	11-17	0.393	L1	7-6	4-11	0-0	
10.	Fairleigh Dickinson2-16	0.111	3-26	0.103	W1	3-12	0-13	0-1	

Choice Hotels/NEC Player of the Week

ALLI WILLIAMS, SAINT FRANCIS U

Sr., F, 6-0, Altoona, PA/Bishop Guilfoyle

LAST WEEK: 35.0 ppg, 12.0 rpg, 2.5 spg, .540 FG pct., .460 3FG pct.

Williams capped off her record-breaking regular season in fitting fashion. Powering Saint Francis U past Wagner and into triple digits on the scoreboard, Williams poured in a program-record 47 points during Monday night's regular season finale. The two-time CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-American averaged 35.0 points, 12.0 rebounds and 2.5 steals per contest during a 2-0 week that lifted the Red Flash to a third-place regular season NEC finish. First facing Keystone State rival Robert Morris, Williams tallied a double-double of 23 points and 10 rebounds to spark a 78-73 win over the NEC's first-place team. Two days later, Williams made more history. Having already become the fourth player in 28 years of NEC women's hoops to compile 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds, the senior forward added 47 points and 14 boards to her career totals. Her scoring output moved her ahead of former Red Flash great, and NEC Hall of Famer, Jess Zinobile (46) for the top spot on the program's all-time single-game list. Only former Mount St. Mary's star Kim Rhock (50 – 1990) has managed to score more points in a conference contest. Williams, whose 25.1 points per game rank seventh amongst NCAA Division I leaders, shot 54 percent from the floor last week, including a 6-for-13 (.460) clip from downtown.

Choice Hotels/NEC Rookie of the Week

CASSIE OURSLER, ROBERT MORRIS

Fr., F, 6-3, Grand Island, NY/Grand Island

LAST WEEK: 15.5 ppg, 12.5 rpg, 5.0 bpg, .520 FG pct

Oursler averaged a double-double during the final week of her rookie regular season. The freshman post player contributed 15.5 points, 12.5 rebounds and 5.0 blocks per game as the Colonials faced two teams in the top half of the league standings. She shot 52.0 percent from the field and 71.4 percent from the charity stripe for the week. The 6-foot-3 Oursler was especially effective on both ends of the floor while helping Robert Morris secure the #NECWBB regular season crown on Monday night. In a 75-69 victory over regular season runner-up Mount St. Mary's, Oursler scored 17 points and pulled down a career-high 18 boards. Staying out of foul trouble for the duration of the evening, Oursler swatted six shots and came up with a pair of steals. In a five-point setback at Saint Francis U on Saturday, Oursler totaled 14 points, seven rebounds and four blocks in 34 minutes before fouling out. A two-time Choice Hotels NEC Rookie of the Week, the New York state product finished the regular season ranked third in the league for blocked shots per game (1.59).

Choice Hotels NEC PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Feb. 25	Eilidh Simpson, SFBK
Feb. 18	Ugo Nwaigwe, WAG
Feb. 11	Artemis Spanou, RMU
Feb. 5	Alexa Havward. SFU

Choice Hotels NEC ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Feb. 25	Anna Niki Stamolamprou, RMU
Feb. 18	Jasmine Nwajei, WAG
Feb. 11	Jasmine Nwajei, WAG
Feb. 5	Jasmine Nwajei, WAG

2014 NEC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

CHAMPIONSHIP OUARTERFINALS SEMIFINALS **Robert Morris** Sunday, March 9 2:00 pm LIU Brooklyn Wednesday, March 12 7:00 pm Mount St. Mary's (ESPN3) Sunday, March 9 2:00 pm Wagner Sunday, March 16 3:00 pm **ESPNU** Saint Francis U **NEC Champion** Sunday, March 9 3:00 pm Sacred Heart Wednesday, March 12 7:00 pm (ESPN3) **Bryant** Sunday, March 9 6:00 pm

St. Francis Brooklyn

PAST NEC TOURNAMENT WINNERS & MVPs

2013 - Final Result: #1 Quinnipiac def. #4 Saint FRancis (PA), 72-33 (Hamden, CT) 2012 - Final Result: #1 Sacred Heart def. #3 Monmouth, 58-48 (Fairfield, CT) 2011 - Final Result: #1 Saint Francis (PA) def. #2 Monmouth, 72-57 (Loretto, PA) 2010 - Final Result: #5 Saint Francis (PA) def. #2 Long Island, 77-68 (Brooklyn, NY) 2009 - Final Result: #1 Sacred Heart def. #3 Saint Francis (PA), 74-66 (Fairfield, CT) 2008 - Final Result: #2 Robert Morris def. #4 Long Island, 86-75 (Moon Twp., PA) 2007 - Final Result: #2 Robert Morris def. #3 Sacred Heart, 68-66 (Fairfield, CT) 2006 - Final Result: #1 Sacred Heart def. #2 Quinnipiac, 69-65 (Fairfield, CT) 2005 - Final Result: #1 Saint Francis (PA) def. #3 Robert Morris, 65-50 (Loretto, PA) 2004 - Final Result: #1 Saint Francis (PA) def. #3 Monmouth, 70-55 (Loretto, PA) 2003 - Final Result: #1 Saint Francis (PA) def. #7 UMBC, 58-41 (Loretto, PA) 2002 - Final Result: #1 Saint Francis (PA) def. #2 Long Island, 74-54 (Loretto, PA) 2001 - Final Result: #3 Long Island def. #1 Mount St. Mary's, 70-61 (Trenton, NJ) 2000 - Final Result: #1 Saint Francis (PA) def. #6 Wagner, 74-60 (Trenton, NJ) 1999 - Final Result: #2 Saint Francis (PA) def. #4 Monmouth, 88-76 (Staten Island, NY) 1998 - Final Result: #1 Saint Francis (PA) def. #3 Wagner, 74-49 (Loretto, PA) 1997 - Final Result: #1 Saint Francis (PA) def. #2 Monmouth, 54-42 (Loretto, PA) 1996 - Final Result: #2 Saint Francis (PA) def. #1 Mount St. Mary's, 83-75 (Emmitsburg, MD) 1995 - Final Result: #1 Mount St. Mary's def. #2 Saint Francis (PA), 80-61 (Emmitsburg, MD) 1994 - Final Result: #1 Mount St. Mary's def. #2 Saint Francis (PA), 78-67 (Emmitsburg, MD) 1993 - Final Result: #2 Mount St. Mary's def #4 Marist, 82-61 (Teaneck, NJ) 1992 - Final Result: #2 Fairleigh Dickinson def. #1 Mount St. Mary's, 78-55 (Emmitsburg, MD) 1991 - Final Result: #4 Robert Morris def. #6 Wagner, 69-61 (Emmitsburg, MD) 1990 - Final Result: #3 Fairleigh Dickinson def. #1 Mount St. Mary's, 70-65 (Emmitsburg, MD) 1989 - Final Result: #1 Wagner def. #2 Robert Morris, 66-60 (Staten Island, NY) 1988 - Final Result: #2 Robert Morris def. #1 Monmouth, 63-60 (West Long Branch, NJ) 1987- Final Result: #1 Monmouth def #3 Fairleigh Dickinson, 92-65 (West Long Branch, NJ)

MVP: Brittany McQuain, QU MVP: Ericka Norman, SHU MVP: Brittany Lilley, SFPA MVP: Britney Hodges, SFPA MVP: Kaitlin Sowinski, SHU MVP: Chinata Nesbit, RMU MVP: Chinata Nesbit, RMU MVP: Amanda Pape, SHU MVP: Beth Swink, SFPA MVP: Tonjee Ward, SFPA MVP: Beth Swink, SFPA MVP: Karen Hewitt, SFPA MVP: Tamika Dudley, LIU MVP: Jess Zinobile, SFPA MVP: Jess Zinobile, SFPA MVP: Mary Markey, SFPA MVP: Jess Zinobile, SFPA MVP: Mary Markey, SFPA MVP: Nikki Schrover, MSM MVP: Susie Rowlyk, MSM MVP: Diana Matula, MSM MVP: Barbara DeShields. FDU MVP: Maebeth Schalles, RMU MVP: Cathy Panos, FDU MVP: Cynthia Quinlan, WC MVP: JoAnn Beatty, RMU MVP: Linda Wilson, MU

^{*}Teams Re-seeded following each round

#NEC14 #TourneyTidbits

28 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT 28th ANNUAL NORTHEAST CONFERENCE WBB TOURNAMENT

- 1. The 2014 NEC Tournament bracket contains three teams who were not here last year. Top-seeded Robert Morris is back after failing to qualify in 2013 when it finished 10th in the standings. Under second-year head coach Lisa Cermignano, Wagner will make its first appearance since 2010. Meanwhile, LIU Brooklyn returns following a one-year absence.
- 2. The 2014 NEC Tournament will follow the same "high seed host" format that was reemployed in 2011. The higher-seeded teams will host games throughout the entirety of this year's event.
- **3.** Exactly one-quarter of the eight-team Tournament field is still searching for its first title. St. Francis Brooklyn and Bryant have yet to cut down the nets and capture the NEC's automatic bid to the Big Dance. In fact, neither has ever made it through to the title game.
- **4.** Robert Morris owns the No. 1 seed in the NEC Tournament for the second time in its program's history. The Colonials have won four conference crowns, but have never done so as the tourney's top seed.
- 5. Three programs in this year's field have won two NEC Tournament titles in the past decade -- Robert Morris (2007, 2008). Sacred Heart (2009, 2012) and Saint Francis (PA) (2010, 2011).
- **6.** Saint Francis (PA) became the lowest seed ever to win the event when the No. 5 seed Red Flash went all the way in 2010.
- 7. Seeded fourth in 1991, Robert Morris had been the lowest seed to ever win the tournament title.
- **8.** Mount St. Mary's will be making its record 23rd appearance at the NEC Tournament. The Mount's string of 20 consecutive NEC Tournament appearances ended in 2010. After absences in 2010 and 2011, Bryan Whitten's team is back in the postseason for the third year in a row.
- 9. Sacred Heart, who has qualified for the NEC Tournament every year since it joined the league in 1999, owns the longest active streak for consecutive appearances (15).
- 10. The No. 1 seed has won it all 16 times in 27 years.
- **11.** In the 19 years since the Northeast conference discontinued the six-team bracket, the No. 1 seed has won 14 times and has only missed the final on four occasions.
- **12.** The 1991 RMU Colonials are the only team to win the tournament while finishing the season with a sub-.500 winning percentage (13-17).
- $\textbf{13.} \ \text{Saint Francis (PA)} \ \text{has the most tournament wins (41) and most NEC titles (11) of any conference team.}$
- **14.** The Red Flash's record win streak of 29 straight tournament victories came to a halt at the hands of Sacred Heart in the 2009 NEC Championship Game.
- **15.** Saint Francis (PA) has made it through to the semifinal round more often than anyone else in the field. The Red Flash have been amongst the Tournament's final four on 15 occasions, and proceeded to advance to the Championship Game all 15 times.
- **16.** The two lowest seeds to ever meet in the Championship Game were No. 4 Robert Morris and No. 6 Wagner back in 1991. RMU prevailed, 69-61.
- 17. No team has ever reached the century mark in a game during tournament time. Saint Francis (PA), Monmouth and Robert Morris have all scored 92 points in a Tournament game. The Red Flash did it against Monmouth in 1994 while the Hawks scored 92 against St. Francis (NY) en route to the title. RMU did it in the 2012 NEC quarterfinal round, topping the Red Flash by a score of 92-82.
- **18.** The largest margin of victory in a tournament game (39) came in Quinnipiac's 72-33 triumph over Saint Francis (PA) in the 2013 Championship Game.
- 19. Only four players have earned both Tournament MVP and Player of the Year accolades in the same season. Monmouth's Linda Wilson was honored with both awards during the league's inaugural season in 1986-87, followed by Mount St. Mary's Susie Rowlyk in 1993-94 and Saint Francis (PA)'s Jess Zinobile in 1999-2000. Most recently, Amanda Pape of Sacred Heart was tabbed with both honors in 2005-06. Will 2014 NEC Player of the Year Artemis Spanou make it five?
- 20. Two of the five members of the 2013 NEC All-Tournament Team are back this March -- SFU's Alli Williams and Mount's Jackie Brewer.
- 21. Quinnipiac's Ashlee Kelly redefined "monster game" in 2004 when she poured in 38 points and grabbed 28 rebounds during a quarterfinal showdown with FDU. Two days after her tournament record 28-rebound performance, QU's Ashlee Kelly hauled in 26 boards and still owns the top two spots on the tournament's all-time single-game rebounding list.
- 22. Robert Morris' Chinata Nesbit, a former two-time Tournament MVP, owns the lone triple-double in tourney history (2008 QF vs. SFBK).
- 23. Two of the eight head coaches in this year's field will be making their NEC Tournament debut. Lisa Cermignano has Wagner in the postseason in her second year on the job, while rookie head coach Jessica Mannetti has led Sacred Heart back to the event.
- 24. RMU's Sal Buscaglia has more NEC Tournament wins (12) than any other coach in this year's field.
- 25. Buscaglia is the lone active NEC head coach with a tournament title on his resume (2007, 2008).
- **26.** No. 8 seed LIU Brooklyn will look to produce the second-ever 8-over-1 upset in NEC Tournament history. St. Francis (BK) was the first to pull off the feat when they ousted LIU Brooklyn in 2007.
- 27. Since 1994, the NEC Tournament champion has received an automatic bid to the NCAA's Big Dance. Mount St. Mary's earned the league's first-ever auto berth and faced lowa in the 1994 NCAA First Round.
- **28.** For the seventh consecutive year, the NEC Women's Basketball Championship Game will reach a national TV audience via ESPNU. This year's title tilt is set for March 16 at 3:00 pm.

TOURNEY HISTORY OF 2014 TOURNEY FIELD

See	d Team	Tourney Rec.	Semis	Chmp Gm	Titles
#1	Robert Morris	19-14 (.576)	12	6	4
#2	Mount St. Mary's	18-19 (.486)	13	7	3
#3	Saint Francis U	41-8 (.837)	15	15	11
#4	Bryant	0-1 (.000)	0	0	0
#5	St. Francis Brooklyn	5-11 (.313)	5	0	0
#6	Sacred Heart	16-11 (.593)	9	4	3
#7	Wagner	14-18 (.438)	9	4	1
#8	LIU Brooklyn	15-16 (.484)	8	4	1

NOTE: All records are upon entering 2014 Tournament. *Semis - denotes semifinal round appearances *Chmp Gm - denotes Championship Game appearances

HEAD COACHES IN 2014 TOURNEY FIELD

Seed	Coach (School)	Арр.	Tourney Rec. Ti	tles
#1	Sal Buscaglia (Robert Morris)	9	12-7 (.632)	2
#2	Bryan Whitten (Sacred Heart)	4	1-4 (.200)	0
#3	Joe Haigh (Saint Francis U)	1	2-1 (.667)	0
#4	Mary Burke (Bryant)	1	0-1 (.000)	0
#5	John Thurston (SFBK)	1	0-1 (.000)	0
#6	Jessica Mannetti (Sacred Heart)	FII	RST APPEARANCE	
#7	Lisa Cermignano (Wagner)	FII	RST APPEARANCE	
#8	Gail Striegler (LIU Brooklyn)	3	2-3 (.400)	0

ALL-TIME NEC TOURNAMENT WINS LEADERS

	Name	Yrs in NEC	Wins
1.	Ed Swanson (SHU)	1999-2013	16
2.	Jenny Przekwas (SFU)	1992-99	16
3.	Bill Sheahan (MSM)	1990-98	14
4.	Sal Buscaglia (RMU)	2003-present	12
5.	Tricia Fabbri (QU)	1998-2013	10

THE SEED REPORT

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Winner	Year
Quinnipiac	2013
Sacred Heart	2012
Saint Francis (PA)	2011
Saint Francis (PA)	2010
Sacred Heart	2009
Robert Morris	2008
Robert Morris	2007
Sacred Heart	2006
Saint Francis (PA)	2005
Saint Francis (PA)	2004
Saint Francis (PA)	2003
Saint Francis (PA)	2002
Long Island	2001
Saint Francis (PA)	2000
Saint Francis (PA)	1999
Saint Francis (PA)	1998
Saint Francis (PA)	1997
Saint Francis (PA)	1996
Mount St. Mary's	1995
Mount St. Mary's	1994
Mount St. Mary's	1993
Fairleigh Dickinson	1992
Robert Morris	1991
Fairleigh Dickinson	1990
Wagner	1989
Robert Morris	1988
Monmouth	1987
	Quinnipiac Sacred Heart Saint Francis (PA) Saint Francis (PA) Sacred Heart Robert Morris Robert Morris Sacred Heart Saint Francis (PA) Long Island Saint Francis (PA) Mount St. Mary's Mount St. Mary's Fairleigh Dickinson Robert Morris Fairleigh Dickinson Wagner Robert Morris

#NEC14 **#History**

NEC TOURNAMENT SINGLE-GAME RECORDS

Individua	al Standar
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Points	CI	Pts 46	Opponent (Date)
Jess Zinobile (SFPA)	Sr		Long Island (3/4/00)
Field Goals Made	CI	FG	Opponent (Date)
Diane Campbell (FDU)	So	15	Loyola (3/4/87)
Linda Wilson (MU)	Sr	15	Fairleigh Dickinson (3/7/87)
Sade Logan (RMU)	Jr	15	Monmouth (3/9/08)
Field Goal Attempts	CI	FGA 30	Opponent (Date)
Sade Logan (RMU)	Jr		Monmouth (3/9/08)
3-Point FGs Made	CI	3FG	Opponent (Date) Robetr Morris (3/7/10)
Allison Daly (SFPA)	Jr	8	
Rebounds	CI	Reb	Opponent (Date) Fairleigh Dickinson (3/5/04)
Ashlee Kelly (QU)	Sr	28	
Assists	CI	Ast 12	Opponent (Date)
Kerry Dressel (FDU)	Sr		Marist (3/8/88)
Steals	CI	Stl	Opponent (Date) Saint Francis (PA) (3/7/96)
Colleen Demarest (RID)	Sr	9	
Blocks	CI	Blk	Opponent (Date) Fairleigh Dickinson (3/11/88) Fairleigh Dickinson (3/10/90)
Sandra Cook (MU)	Sr	7	
Vanessa Blair (MSM)	So	7	
Free Throws	Sr	CI	FT Opponent (Date)
Christa Ciriani (MU)		16	Long Island (3/8/94)
Free Throw Attempts	CI	FTA 21	Opponent (Date)
Christa Ciriani (MU)	Sr		Long Island (3/8/94)

NEC TOURNAMENT SINGLE-GAME RECORDS Team Standards

Points Three Times	Pts 92	Opponent (Date) Last - RMU vs. SFU (3/3/12)
Margin of Victory Quinnipiac	Pts 39	Opponent (Date) Saint Francis U (3/17/13)
Field Goals Monmouth	FGM 36	Opponent (Date) St. Francis BK (3/6/87)
3-Point FGs Made Saint Francis U	3FG 14	Opponent (Date) Robert Morris (3/7/10)
Rebounds Quinnipiac	Reb 61	Opponent (Date) Fairleigh Dickinson (3/5/04)
Assists Mount St. Mary's	Ast 25	Opponent (Date) Rider (3/10/94)
Steals Rider	Stl 22	Opponent (Date) Wagner (3/7/95)
Blocks Monmouth	BIk 12	Opponent (Date) St. Francis BK (3/6/87)
Free Throws Monmouth	FTM 34	Opponent (Date) LIU Brooklyn (3/8/94)

NEC ALL-TIME CAREER LEADERS

Individual Scoring Leaders

	~		
	Player (Team)	Years	Points
1.	Jess Zinobile (SFPA)	1996-00	2,338
2	Beth Swink (SFPA)	2001-05	2,127
<i>3</i> .	Alli Williams (SFPA)	2010-	2,086
4.	Amanda Pape (SHU)	2003-07	2,045
5.	Ashley Palmer (LIU)	2009-12	2,044
6.	Artemis Spanou (RMU)	2010-	2,042
7.	Karen Erving (SFNY)	1987-91	1,929
8.	Mariyah Laury (FDU)	2009-12	1,923
9.	Amanda Rosato (MU)	1997-01	1,916
10.	Callan Taylor (SHU)	2009-12	1,822

Individual Rebounding Leaders

	Player (Team)	Years	Rebounds
1.	Artemis Spanou (RMU)	2010-	1,510
2.	Jess Zinobile (SFPA)	1996-00	1,295
3.	Gabriella Guegbelet (CC)	2003-07	1,139
4.	Callan Taylor (SHU)	2009-12	1,123
5.	Elise James (RMU)	1996-00	1,120
6.	Cynthia Quinlan (WAG)	1986-90	1,118
	Alli Williams (SFPA)	2010-	1,118
8.	Ashlee Kelly (QU)	2000-04	1,107
9.	Alicia Conquest (WAG)	1994-98	1,106
10.	Naana Ankoma-Mensa (BRY)	2010-	1,101

Individual Assists Leaders

	Player (Team)	Years	Assists
1.	Sandy Salerno (SFBK)	1987-91	589
2.	Ericka Norman (SHU)	2010-	583
3.	Karen Hewitt (SFPA)	2000-04	574
4.	Maureen Logan (SFPA)	1989-93	522
5.	Amy Langville (MSM)	1994-97	513
6.	Jessie Brown (UMBC)	1999-03	502
7.	Andrea Reed (WAG)	2007-10	499
8.	Natallia Marchanka (FDU)	2000-04	494
9.	Ashley Linscott (WC)	2000-04	485
10.	Nicole Cervino (MU)	1990-94	472

Top-5 #NECWBB Single-Game Point Totals

- 1) 111- Saint Francis U vs. FDU, 1/11/14
- 2) 110 FDU vs Saint Francis U, 1/8/87
 - 110 Saint Francis at FDU, 1/25/14
- 4) 109 Quinnipiac vs. Mount, 1/14/08
- 5) 106 Saint Francis U at CCSU, 1/6/14

#NEC14 #SeedsAreSet

ROBERT MORRIS NABS NO. 1 SEED ON HEELS OF FOURTH #NECWBB REGULAR SEASON CROWN

he Road to the 2014 NEC Women's Basketball Tournament title will go through Robert Morris.

Making good on the coaches' preseason prediction, the Colonials secured the NEC regular season crown and will own the No. 1 seed in the conference's eight-team postseason tournament.

Robert Morris (18-11, 14-4) captured its fourth regular season title in the Sal Buscaglia Era by knocking off Mount St. Mary's in its regular season finale at the Sewall Center.

"It's the first time for me winning the regular season championship. It's exciting and a great feeling, but now we've got to stay more focused," said RMU senior forward **Artemis**Spanou. Everybody is coming for us even more than they were during the regular season."

The Mount (18-12, 13-5), which entered Monday night's final in a first-place tie with RMU, will be the No. 2 seed at the 2014 NEC Tournament after posting the program's best conference record since 2001.



• RMU's Artemis Spanou (above) is the NEC's top rebounder.

No. 3 **Saint Francis** (13-16, 11-7) and No. 4 **Bryant** (16-13, 11-7) will join Robert Morris and Mount St. Mary's in hosting quarterfinal round contests. All NEC Tournament games will be played at the home sites of the higher-seeded teams.

No. 5 **St. Francis Brooklyn** (19-10, 10-8), No. 6 **Sacred Heart** (12-17, 9-9), No. 7 **Wagner** (9-20, 8-10) and No. 8 **LIU Brooklyn** (9-20, 7-11) will all tip off postseason play on the road.

After failing to qualify for the postseason last March, Robert Morris has earned the No. 1 seed at the NEC Tournament for the second time in program history. The Colonials have won four conference titles during their history, but never as the top-seeded team.

"Every year you go for that championship. The first two years we didn't get it, and then, we kind of struggled last year with a lot of injuries," Spanou said.

"This year, it's our senior years [speaking with Kelly Hartwell next to her] and we want the championship. Our goal was to get the NEC Championship. We played every game to get better and to get us there, and finally we got it. Now we have to focus on the playoffs."

The 28th annual NEC Women's Basketball Championship will commence on March 9 with quarterfinal round play followed by the semifinals on March 12. For the seventh year in a row, the #NECWBB Championship Game will reach a live national TV audience via ESPNU. The game, which will decide the recipient of the NEC's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, will tip off at 3:00 pm EST on Sunday, March 16.

QUARTERFINALS AT A GLANCE

No. 1 Robert Morris vs. No. 8 LIU Brooklyn

2013-14 Meetings: RMU 66, LIU 52 (Jan. 25); RMU 79, LIU 43 (Feb. 17) Robert Morris looks to complete the difficult task of defeating the same team three times in one season. Like the Colonials, LIU Brooklyn returns to the NEC Tournament following a one-year absence. Gail Striegler's Blackbirds, who had won four of five games heading into the final week of the regular season, hope to become the second team in league history to pull off an 8-over-1 upset. The upcoming meeting at the Sewall Center marks the first time these two teams have faced one another in postseason play since RMU topped LIU in the 2008 NEC Championship Game.

No. 2 Mount St. Mary's vs. No. 7 Wagner

2013-14 Meetings: MSM 89, WAG 78 (Jan. 18); MSM 64, WAG 52 (Mar. 1) Both teams are experiencing their best seasons in the past decade, but only one can advance. Holding its highest seed since it owned the No. 1 spot back in 2001, Mount St. Mary's is in search of the program's fourth conference crown. The Mount, which has qualified for the NEC Tournament 23 times in 25 years, will welcome Wagner to Emmitsburg for the first women's postseason game at Knott Arena since before the turn of the Millennium. The Seahawks, who posted only three overall victories last year, quadrupled their NEC win total during their second season under head coach Lisa Cermignano.

No. 3 Saint Francis U vs. No. 6 Sacred Heart

2013-14 Meetings: SHU 95, SFU 88 (Jan. 4); SFU 89, SHU 80 (Feb. 8) It'll be a rematch of last year's semifinal featuring two programs that have combined to win nine of the past 12 NEC Tournament titles. Saint Francis topped Sacred Heart last March to advance to the NEC Championship Game for the 15th time in 20 years. The Red Flash, who have won the conference crown an unprecedented 11 times, will host a program that has never finished under .500 in league play. Sacred Heart will make its 15th consecutive NEC Tournament appearance (the league's longest active streak), but its first under rookie head coach Jessica Mannetti.

No. 4 Bryant vs. No. 5 St. Francis Brooklyn

2013-14 Meetings: BRY 61, SFBK 58 (Jan. 20); BRY 63, SFBK 58 (Mar. 1) Bryant and St. Francis Brooklyn both enter the postseason coming off the winningest regular season campaigns during their tenures as NEC members. Bryant, which first became eligible for Division I postseason play last year, will host a NEC Tournament game for the first time in history, The Bulldogs, who have won at least 10 games all six seasons they have played a Division I schedule, set single-season program bests for NEC victories (11) and overall Division I wins (16). Meanwhile, the Terriers have continued their renaissance under second-year head coach John Thurston. After winning only two games during the 2011-12 season, SFBK posted 11 victories last year before setting the single-season school record with 19 wins during the current campaign.

#NEC14 #NECelite

2013-14 NEC Women's Basketball Award Winners

Player of the Year

Artemis Spanou Robert Morris Sr. F 6-2 Rhodes, Greece

Rookie of the Year

Jasmine Nwajei Wagner Fr. G 5-8 Rockaway Park, NY/Murry Bergtraum

Defensive Player of the Year

Ugo Nwaigwe Wagner So. C 6-3 Valley Stream, NY/Valley Stream South

Brenda Reilly Coach of the Year
Sal Buscaglia Robert Morris

2013-14 All-Northeast Conference Women's Basketball First Team

Name	School	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
Sydney Henderson	Mount St. Mary's	5-Sr.	G	5-6	Richmond, VA/Atlee
Cleandra Roberts	LIU Brooklyn	Sr.	F	6-0	Miami, FL/Miami Norland
Artemis Spanou	Robert Morris	Sr.	F	6-0	Rhodes, Greece
Gabrielle Washington	Sacred Heart	Jr.	G	5-9	Mesa, AZ/Desert Ridge
Alli Williams	Saint Francis U	Sr.	F	6-0	Altoona, PA/Bishop Guilfoyle

2013-14 All-Northeast Conference Women's Basketball Second Team

Name	School	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
Naana Ankoma-Mensa	Bryant	Sr.	F	6-0	Brampton, Ontario
Jessica Babe	Central Connecticut	Sr.	G	5-6	Pittsburgh, PA/Mount Lebanon
Jenniqua Bailey	Bryant	Sr.	G	5-6	Bloomfield, CT/Northwest Catholic
Jasmine Nwajei	Wagner	Fr.	G	5-8	Rockaway Park, NY/Murry Bergtraum
Eilidh Simpson	St. Francis Brooklyn	Jr.	G	5-7	Melbourne, Australia

2013-14 All-Northeast Conference Women's Basketball Defensive Team

Name	School	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
Jessica Babe	Central Connecticut	Sr.	G	5-6	Pittsburgh, PA/Mount Lebanon
Desiree Crawford	Fairleigh Dickinson	Sr.	F	5-11	Aurora, Ontario
Leah Fechko	St. Francis Brooklyn	So.	G	5-8	Twinsburg, OH/Twinsburg
Ugo Nwaigwe	Wagner	So.	C	6-3	Valley Stream, NY/Valley Stream South
Alli Williams	Saint Francis U	Sr.	F	6-0	Altoona, PA/Bishop Guilfoyle

2013-14 Northeast Conference Women's Basketball All-Rookie Team

Name	School	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
Hannah Kimmel	Sacred Heart	Jr.	F	6-0	Harpursville, NY/Harpursville
Jasmine Nwajei	Wagner	Fr.	G	5-8	Rockaway Park, NY/Murry Bergtraum
Cassie Oursler	Robert Morris	Fr.	C	6-3	Grand Island, NY/Grand Island
Anna Niki Stamolamprou	Robert Morris	Fr.	G	5-9	Thessaloniki, Greece
Adaysha Williams	Sacred Heart	Fr.	G	5-8	LaCrosse, WI/Logan